IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/709,957 Confirmation No. 3956

Applicant : Masuhiro Natsuhara, et al.

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Examiner : Ram N. Kackar

Docket No. : 039.9016

Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Sir:

In response to the Office action of May 10, 2007 Applicants respectfully submit the following reply, constituted by amendments to the claims, and accompanying remarks urging the patentability of the claims. This reply is being filed on August 10, 2007, and is therefore timely filed.

AMENDMENT Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.